

things. One is regroup, because I think the public is going to be outraged by this action tonight and bring to the floor a true bipartisan bill or all the bills, and allow all of them that were not discussed here today to be voted on. We can do that by signing the discharge petition, and I hope my colleagues have; I know I have and many others have.

But let us bring a bill that does some reform. This bill tonight had no cap or no limit on what you could spend; it had no ban on soft money. What was passed in the House were noncontroversial issues, essentially saying that you have to be a United States citizen to contribute to a campaign. I am very curious that a House that has been so concerned about unfunded mandates would pass such a comprehensive law, requiring the FEC to monitor the nationality and the citizenship of everybody who contributes to a campaign either in kind or by money, because that is going to be very difficult to do, very difficult to enforce.

And so I think what we have passed here tonight is another huge unfunded mandate which may cripple the FEC, the Federal Elections Commission.

The other thing we did was to pass a bill that says let us file reports in a timely fashion electronically, and obviously that had overwhelming support. But this, my colleagues, is not campaign finance reform. Campaign finance reform has not been voted on by the House of Representatives, we have not dealt with the issue in a substantive way, we have not had a bipartisan bill on the floor, and, Mr. Speaker, as I close I hope that you will convey to your leader that we may have had a day discussing some bad bills, but we have not yet dealt with campaign finance reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EWING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KINGSTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule

I, the Chair declares the House in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess, subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3579, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-473) on the resolution (H. Res. 402) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3579) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 10, FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT OF 1998

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-474) on the resolution (H. Res. 403) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1998

A PORTION OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL ORDER WAS INADVERTENTLY OMITTED

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to address an extremely significant issue that relates to our schools, that relates to some of our most cherished principles as citizens of the United States of America and that unfortunately involves things which the courts of the United States have thrust upon the people despite the unwillingness of the people, in fact despite great concern and opposition by the public.

This relates, Mr. Speaker, to the matter of what happens in our public schools. It relates to the practices that

have gone on for generations upon generations in this country involving prayer in public bodies, in particular, in our schools.

I am not talking about this just to be talking about it, Mr. Speaker. I am doing it because we are going to have an opportunity in the next few weeks here in the House of Representatives to vote on correcting what the courts in the United States have done, what the U.S. Supreme Court has done in its bans and restrictions and prohibitions on the practice of simple prayers being offered at public school. That particular legislation is the Religious Freedom Amendment, House Joint Resolution 78. I am privileged to be the principal sponsor of it. There are over 150 Members of this body who are sponsors as well. I would like to share with my colleagues the text of that. The Religious Freedom Amendment is very simple and straightforward and tries to return us to what were bedrock principles of this country until the Supreme Court began undercutting those principles some 36 years ago. The text is very straightforward and reads as follows as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

To secure the people's right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience, neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, prescribe school prayers, discriminate against religion or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion.

It is simple and it is straightforward. It states that just as the constitutions of every single State in this country state, we believe in the people's right to acknowledge God, and expressly mentions him, as the constitutions of the States do. No official religion, but not these restrictions that are put on prayer and positive expressions of religious faith but that are not applied to other forms of speech.

Why is religious speech singled out for discrimination? Mr. Speaker, in 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that even when participation was voluntary and even if it was some sort of non-sectarian prayer, it was unconstitutional, they said, for school children to join together in a prayer in their classroom. That was followed by other Supreme Court decisions, *Stone v. Graham* in 1980, in which the U.S. Supreme Court said that the Ten Commandments could not be displayed on the walls of a public school. Mr. Speaker, I would note that that decision came out of your home State of Kentucky because it was Kentucky schools that had the practice. Groups would make copies of the Ten Commandments available and they would be hung with other important documents as the source of law as well as the source of spiritual guidance.

I notice, Mr. Speaker, here in the Chamber of this House as I am facing